LETTERS@METRO.US

DOES BRITNEY HAVE 'X FACTOR'? {page 08}

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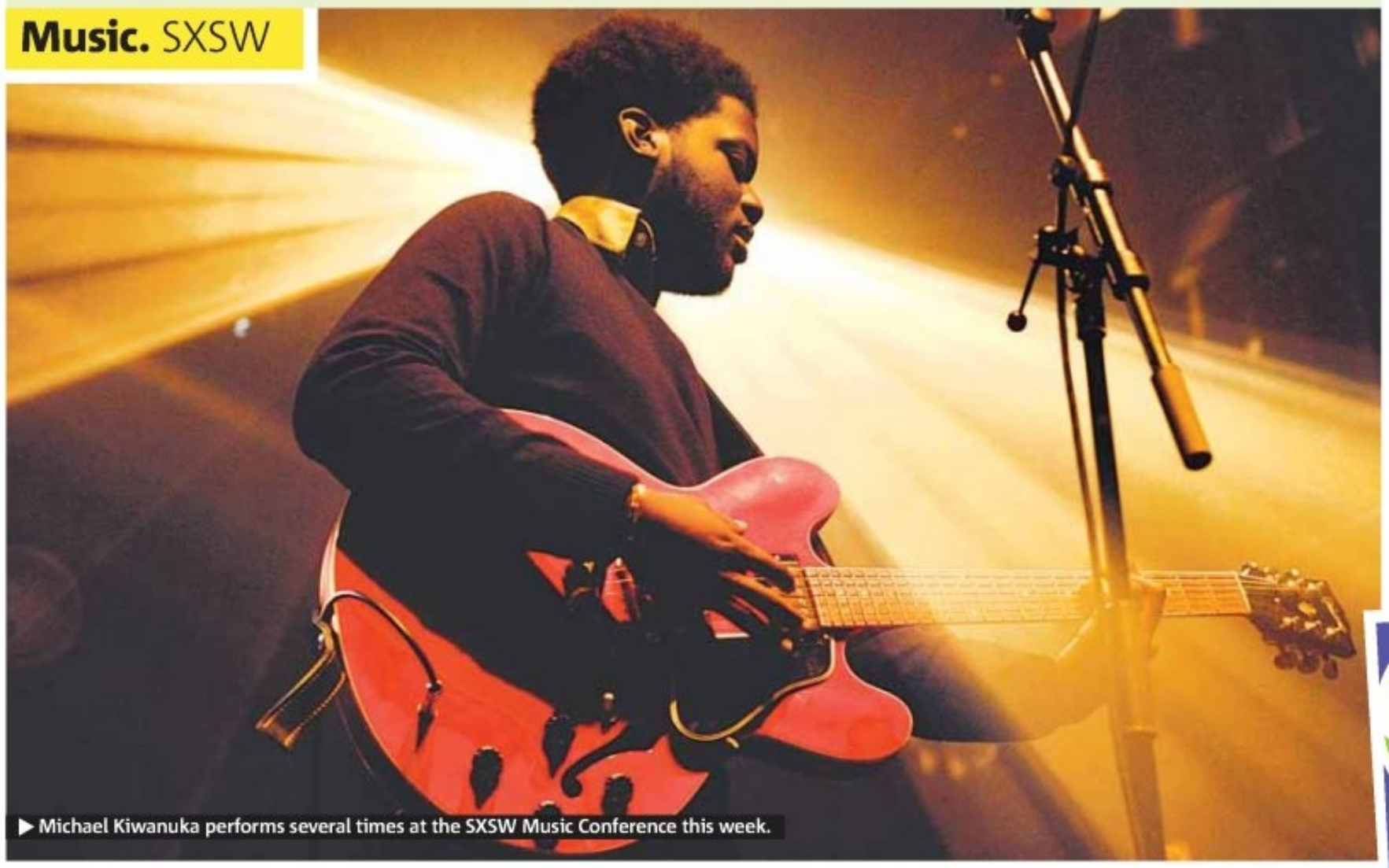
BOSTON
Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Defense rips DA's key witness as trial ends

After nearly a month of testimony from dozens of witnesses, the jury in the Mattapan massacre trial will begin deliberations today Defense attorneys attack credibility of key witness, try to cast doubt during closing arguments {page 02}

DAMIEN MEYER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Music. SXSW



▶ Michael Kiwanuka performs several times at the SXSW Music Conference this week.

Thousands of musicians and music writers descend upon Austin, Texas, today as the SXSW Music Conference kicks into high gear. The five-day event is known for creating the critical buzz that leads to stardom for many major artists. Past SXSW success stories have included Odd Future, White Stripes, Amy Winehouse and John Mayer. Will Michael Kiwanuka soon be on this list? Music Editor Pat Healy seems to think so. See page 09 for more picks.

News

Taliban warns it will behead US soldiers

After American troop's weekend rampage, group threatens action against 'sadistic' soldiers {page 05}

More than a 'Million'

Bravo star Ryan Serhant takes Metro inside his posh NYC apartment {pages 18-19}

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Jury starts deliberation of Mattapan massacre

In closing arguments, defense attorneys target prosecution's key witness as 'pimp' and 'career criminal' DA: You don't have to like him

POOL

▶ Dwayne Moore appears recently in court.

▶ Attorney John Amabile looks over his notes during the trial.

A day after defense attorneys tore in to the prosecution's key witness, jurors today will begin deliberating the fate of two men accused of murdering four people in one of the city's most horrific crimes in recent years.

Attorneys for Dwayne Moore, the accused gunman, and Edward Washington, his alleged accomplice, said during closing arguments yesterday that the men were being wrongfully accused based on false testimony from the prosecution's key witness, Kimani Washington.

They tried to create doubt in the minds of the jurors by attacking Washington's credibility.

"They want you to condemn my client based on the testimony of Kimani Washington," said John Amabile, Moore's attorney. "If this wasn't so serious that would almost be laughable."

"Is Kimani Washington capable of accusing an innocent person? You know it."
JOHN AMABILE, DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Washington was one of the dozens of witnesses who testified during the course of the nearly monthlong trial. He made a plea agreement with prosecutors and will likely spend between 16 and 18 years in jail for his role in the 2010 robbery that left four people dead, including a toddler and his mother. Prosecutors have said Washington wasn't at the scene when the shots rang out.

The defense has tried to poke holes in the case by highlighting Washington's history as a criminal and his admission of being a pimp.

"He sold this cock and bull story to the [district attorney's] office and he's getting out of the can," Amabile said.

Edward Washington's attorney John Cunha said Washington manipulated the facts of the incident.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

Prosecution: Washington a 'gangster' and a 'thug'

Assistant District Attorney Edmond Zabin spent a significant portion of his closing argument yesterday trying to set at ease any jurors who may be doubting

Kimani Washington's testimony.

"Kimani Washington is a gangster. Kimani Washington is a thug," Zabin said. "We are not telling you to like him … the question is whether he is telling the truth."

Zabin said other individual sources and even forensic evidence corroborated Washington's testimony. However, he admitted there was no direct forensic link — DNA or fingerprints — to the defendants and the evidence.

"The evidence you heard in this case is … deliberate, premeditated first-degree murder," he said.

Suspects, victims

One of the city's most horrific murders in years involves multiple victims and suspects.

VICTIMS:
- Amanihotep Smith, 2
- Eyanna Flonory, 21
- Simba Martin, 21
- Levaughn Washum-Garrison, 22
- Marcus Hurd, 33, was the only surviving victim. He is now a quadriplegic after being shot in the head, but he managed to testify.

SUSPECTS:
- Dwayne Moore, 34, of Mattapan, is charged with four counts of first-degree murder and other crimes.
- Edward Washington, 32, of Dorchester, is also charged with four counts of first-degree murder.
- Kimani Washington, 36, of Dorchester, is Edward Washington's cousin.

Quoted

"Our final proposal will include both cuts and a fare increase. … Without a new dedicated revenue source, we know we will be back in this very place next year."
MASSDOT SECRETARY RICH DAVEY AND MBTA GM JON DAVIS IN A LETTER TO T RIDERS YESTERDAY.

Today's local tweet

"Omg shoes suddenly gave me blisters, amazing conductors of 9:05 haverhill-bos train found me gauze and tape. #mbta #mbcr"
@ASOEHNLEN ON HER NEW KICKS HURTING HER FEET AND T STAFF COMING TO HER RESCUE

▶ The attack was posted on YouTube.

Red Line attacker apologizes

BOSTON. A woman caught on video repeatedly hitting a Red Line passenger recently apologized. According to WBZ, the alleged attacker, Melissa Cote, said she was provoked by the man she punched several times before exiting the train.

However, Cote said if she sees the victim, she'd apologize and give him a "big hug" and "wet kiss" according to reports.

Cote also admitted that she was drunk and out of control.

The MBTA plans to press charges. **METRO**

Study: T cuts bad for health

BOSTON. A new study suggests if the MBTA makes cuts to services and raises fares, people could get fat or die.

According to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, if certain plans were put in place, 15 extra people in the Bay State would pass away.

The study, researched with help from Harvard and Boston University, also claimed that changes would contribute to obesity. **METRO**

Cops seek own cruiser

BOSTON. Police are searching for the person who stole a marked cruiser yesterday afternoon. The cruiser was stolen from an on-duty officer working near 775 Summer St. in South Boston. It was recovered about 40 minutes later near Congress Street and Northern Avenue, police said. **METRO/BOSTON.COM**

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Mob mentality: Put money into local businesses

The days of creating synchronized dance routines in the form of giant, public flash mobs are a thing of the past.

The latest trend that's popping up in Boston? Cash mobs.

Large groups of customers are interacting through social media platforms to arrange surprise meet-ups at independently owned retail shops where they spend money to stimulate the local economy.

"The purpose is to try and encourage shopping at local businesses while doing something interesting for the general public," said city resident Ku Yoo, who organized Boston Cash Mob's very first outing last month in Central Square. He's preparing the group's second spending spree for later this month.

Join the Cash Mob

March 24 is "National Cash Mob Day," and Boston is taking part. Follow updates online to learn which business is next on the list.

- Facebook: **Boston Cash Mob**
- Twitter: **@BostonCashMob**

Yoo said he drops hints on Facebook and Twitter about which business the group will mob with money next, but it stays a mystery to those participating until they finally get together. Then the Cash Mobbers hit their destination and drop an allotted amount of cash at the retail spot.

After the event, participants grab a drink and some grub and socialize, said Yoo.

Cynthia Munoz, manager at Cambridge's Boomerangs store, where the first Cash Mob was held, said she was glad they picked that location because the store was new to the area.

"If you have enough people it adds up," said Munoz. "A big part of the appeal was the social aspect. Afterward they all get to hang out and see other places in the neighborhood, letting them check out other local businesses."

STEVE ANNEAR
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Spring. In bloom

▶ The Boston Flower & Garden Show runs through Sunday.

COURTNEY SACCO/METRO

Spring blooming in(side) Boston

Get those green thumbs out of those winter gloves because the spring weather is here — and with it comes the annual Boston Flower & Garden Show. Held at the Seaport World Trade Center, the colorful event runs features thousands of plants and landscape displays. ● METRO

Whitey Bulger memoir among evidence?

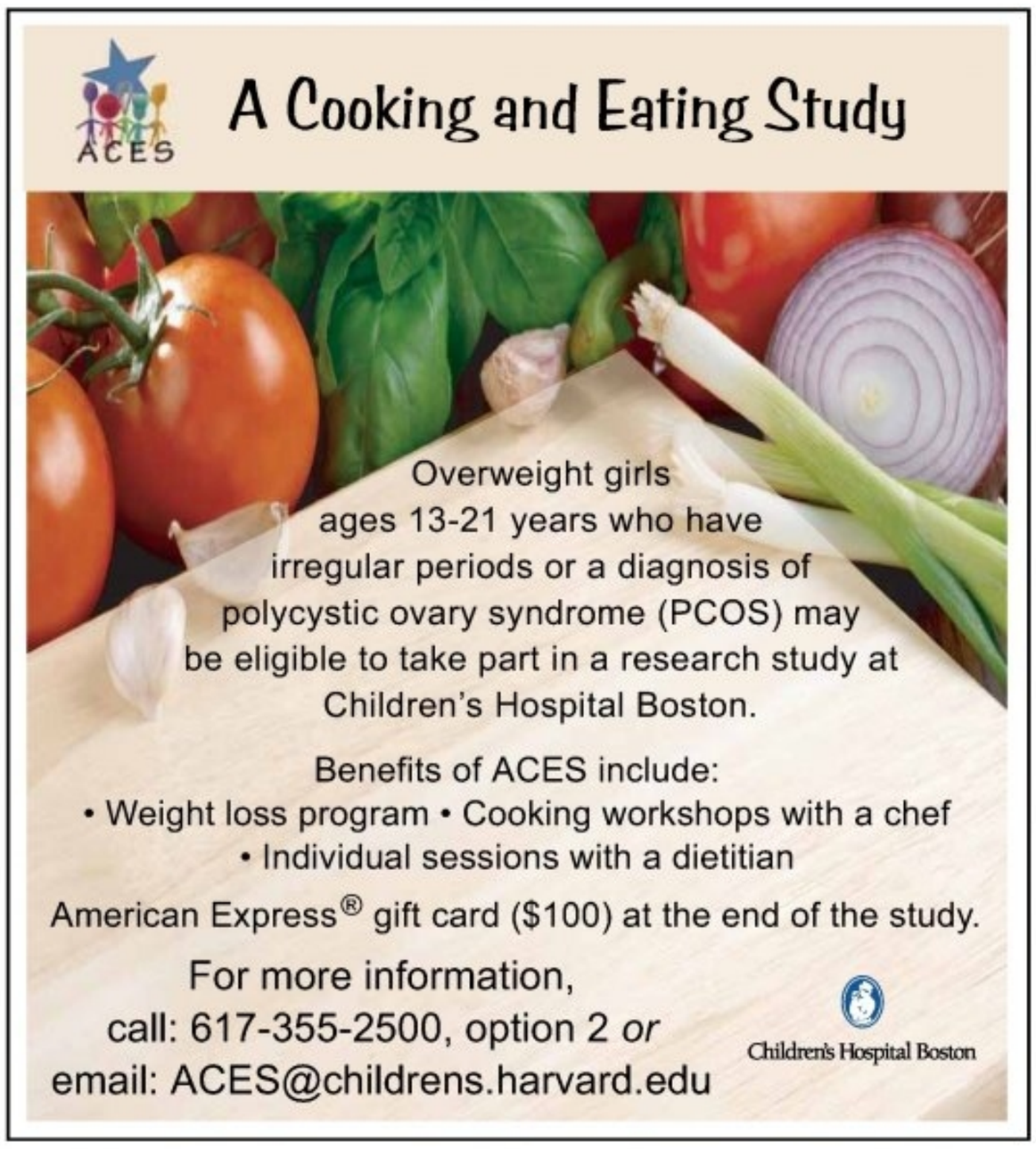
Alleged fugitive mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger may have been working on a book, which could now be used as evidence against him.

The revelation that the 82-year-old gangster may have been authoring a book was made among court filings by prosecutors yesterday as they provided a case status update.

"Document titled 'My Life in the Irish Mafia Wars' recovered at 375 Silver St. on Jan. 5, 1995," according to a list of prosecutor's evidence provided to Bulger's attorney. "It is unclear at this juncture whether the defendant authored this document; however, the government provides notice to the defendant that the government may use this document as evidence."

Thousands of other documents were also listed.

● MICHAEL NAUGHTON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Taliban threatens to behead US soldiers

Hours after threat, insurgents open fire on massacre investigators, kill soldier and civilian Obama more determined than ever to get American troops out of Afghanistan, but says there will be no 'rush to the exits'

Suspected insurgents opened fire yesterday on senior Afghan investigators of the massacre of 16 civilians by a lone U.S. soldier, Afghan officials said, just hours after the Taliban threatened to behead American troops to avenge the killings.

The gunmen shot from long range at two of President Hamid Karzai's brothers, Shah Wali Karzai and Abdul Qayum Karzai, and security officials at the site of the massacre in Kandahar's Panjwai district.

Karzai's brothers were unharmed in the brief battle, which began during meetings with local people at a mosque near Najiban and Alekozai villages, but a soldier was killed and a civilian wounded. The area is a Taliban stronghold and a supply route.

The Taliban had earlier threatened reprisals for the weekend shooting spree, which came weeks after deadly riots across the country over the burning of copies of the Koran by U.S. troops at NATO's main base in the country. That violence led to calls to accelerate a 2014 goal for the exit of most foreign combat troops.

"The Islamic Emirate once again warns the American animals that the mujahideen will avenge them, and with the help of Allah will kill and behead your sadistic murderous soldiers," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement, using the term by which the Islamist group describes itself.

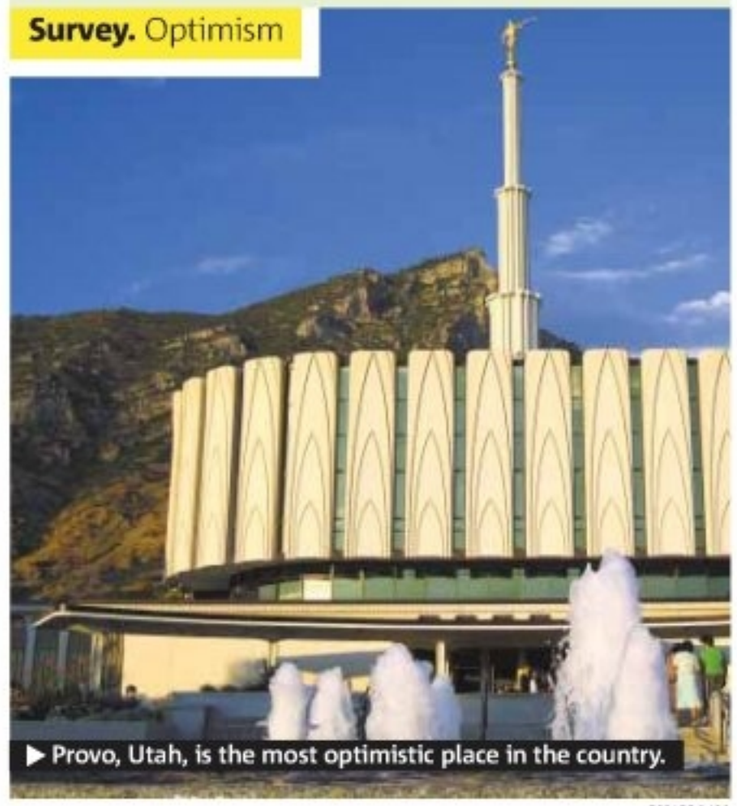
The grim warning, which was unlikely to have any impact on heavily-protected NATO soldiers on the ground, followed the February beheading of four Afghan men by insurgents in a country where such killings are relatively rare.

REUTERS

Rush to exits?

- President Barack Obama, speaking after a phone call with Karzai — who is said to be furious over the latest deaths — said the shootings had only increased his determination to get American troops out of Afghanistan.
- However, Obama cautioned there should not be a "rush to the exits" for U.S. forces who have been fighting in Afghanistan since late 2001 and that the drawdown set for the end of 2014 should be done in a responsible way.

Survey. Optimism



▶ Provo, Utah, is the most optimistic place in the country.

RICARDO630

Where do Americans have the most hope? Provo-Orem, Utah, where 76 percent of residents say their area is becoming a better place to live, according to a Gallup poll released yesterday. The findings show the Utah valley's metropolitan area closely followed by Lafayette, La.; the Raleigh-Cary, N.C., area; and Huntsville, Ala. The nation's least optimistic city? Binghamton, N.Y., where less than 28 percent see their area improving. REUTERS

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What's bringing Obama down?

For complaints, suggestions and digital attaboys, e-mail us at brayden.simms@metro.us.

As Republicans fought to win over Southern hearts and minds yesterday, a pair of polls pointed toward a dramatic slide in support for President Obama, setting the Interwebs on fire with theories, complaints and cheers.

A New York Times and CBS News poll, the more drastic of the two, showed that the president's approval rating had dropped to a 2012 low of 41 percent, down a precipitous 9 percent from the same organizations' February poll. The apparent drop puts a crimp in the emerging narrative, as of the new year, that a handful of positive economic reports had put Obama on track to improve his numbers and take the election in November.

Of course, the report set off the race to find out why exactly this poll decline had occurred. From the left, Jonathan Chait at New York Mag claimed a change in Obama's rhetoric (specifically, use of the phrase "America is back") might be to blame. On the right, The Daily Caller found a possible culprit in the ongoing national debate on reproductive freedom, which reporter Mickey Kaus perceived Democrats as clearly losing. There were many others: Political scientist Jonathan Bernstein attributed it to statistical noise, while the Post fingered a rise in gas prices.

SAUL LOEB/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Is Obama's popularity on the decline, or is there some other reason for the polling drop? Let us know what you think at letters@metro.us.

But for our tastes, it doesn't get much clearer than the revelation, brought to our attention by the good people at The People's View, that the population samples between the two NYT/CBS polls diverged in one telling way: The latter one included far more Republican primary voters, a group of people much likelier to oppose President Obama than the average voter.

Perhaps the takeaway is simply that polling — that great headline-generating beast — is actually widely misused and poorly understood. (Have any of our readers ever been polled? We haven't.) Expect more on this in the future.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

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GET FED

Because sometimes you've only got time to skim the headlines:

- "Obama Attack Video Against Palin, Breitbart Is Selectively and Heavily Edited" **PATTERICO.COM**
- "The Drone Secrecy Farce" **HARPERS**
- "Super PACs responsible for 91 percent of the advertising in Alabama and Mississippi" **WASHINGTON POST**
- "Bloomberg: Romney up 10 nationally" **HOTAIR.COM**
- "Barack Obama's Had a Pretty Damn Good Presidency" **MOTHER JONES**
- "What if George W. Bush had done that?" **POLITICO**
- "Matt Romney Thinks Obama Is 'Great'" **DAILY BEAST**

He said, we said

"Online, liberals far less tolerant than normal people"

THE ABOVE HEADLINE APPEARED YESTERDAY ON THE WEBSITE INVESTORS.COM. THE CONTRAST OF ALLEGED LIBERAL INTOLERANCE IN THE SAME TITLE THAT DESCRIBES LEFT-WING FOLK AS IMPLICITLY ABNORMAL IS HYPOCRITICAL ENOUGH, BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT REPORTERS DON'T GENERALLY WRITE HEADLINES. THEY DO, HOWEVER, WRITE THEIR STORIES; THIS ONE OPENED: "NOT EXACTLY SHOCKING NEWS FOR THOSE EXPOSED TO THEM FOR YEARS ... " LIBERALISM IS NOT A CONTAGION ONE CAN BE EXPOSED TO, BUT AT LEAST WE KNOW THE RIGHT ISN'T OVERLY CONCERNED WITH TOLERANCE.

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URIEL SINAI/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Some Israeli school girls take cover next to a bus during a rocket attack from the Gaza Strip.

Four-day rocket fire ends in truce

ASHDOD, ISRAEL. An Egypt-brokered truce yesterday quelled cross-border fire between Israel and Palestinian militants that left 25 dead in Gaza and three wounded in Israel.

It was a "mini drill" for Iran, claimed one official after Israel managed to absorb some 75 percent of Palestinian rocket fire, using its "Iron Dome" missile interceptor system.

The other "Arrow II" interceptor has a shoot-down rate of some 90 percent in trials. **MWN**

"Until last night, our house was shaking. The bombing has been terrible because it came out of nowhere. A total surprise, that's the worst part."

YASMEEN EL KHOUDARY, 21, GAZA CITY-BASED BLOGGER & ACTIVIST

Gaza retaliates

200 rockets had been fired at southern parts of Israel since Friday, after Israel's killing of leader of the Popular Resistance Committee, a militant group behind kidnapping of Gilad Shalit.

News in brief

White House not sharing its wine

WASHINGTON. When British Prime Minister David Cameron visits President Barack Obama this week, one detail may stay bottled up: the labels on the wines the White House pours at the state dinner tomorrow night.

For Obama's first three state dinners, the White House released the name, year and appellation of wines — all American — paired with each course. But that disclosure stopped after Obama's dinner last year for Chinese President Hu Jintao.

Tyler Colman, who writes the Dr. Vino wine blog and teaches at New York University, said that the shift in menu protocol may reflect political considerations given the sluggish U.S. economy. **BLOOMBERG**

iPads an aid to busy doctors

NEW YORK. Giving iPads to doctors-in-training helped them be more efficient at ordering tests and procedures for their patients in a new study from one university program.

Most residents who used the devices to access patient records and coordinate their care said they cut about an hour per day off their workload. Researchers also found that the internal medicine trainees tended to put in orders for patient procedures earlier than before they got an iPad. **REUTERS**

500

The first privately owned passenger spaceship is on track for a test flight beyond the atmosphere this year, and nearly 500 people have signed up for rides. Another company just closed on $5 million equity financing, enough to finish building a two-seater rocketplane called Lynx. REUTERS

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No More Know-Nothing Laws:
School Choice in Massachusetts

Keynote Remarks by:
Kevin Chavous
Board Chairman,
Black Alliance for Educational Options
and Co-Founder,
Democrats for Education Reform

Introductory Remarks from:
Jay Greene
21st Century Chair in Education Reform,
University of Arkansas

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Kevin Chavous is a noted attorney, author and national school reform leader. As Chair of the District of Columbia Council's Education Committee, Mr. Chavous was at the forefront of promoting change within the public school system. His efforts led to over 500 million new dollars being made available to educate children in DC.

Jay Greene is the 21st Century Chair in Education Reform at the University of Arkansas. Mr. Greene researches and writes about education policy, school choice, high school graduation rates, accountability, and special education.

A panel of experts will discuss the Blaine Amendments as obstacles to school choice, andoffer strategies for revocation. Thomas Finneran, WRKO radio host and former Massachusetts Speaker of the House, will moderate. Panelists include:

Norma Shapiro, *Board of Directors, American Civil Liberties Union of MA*
Tom Gosnell, *President, American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts*
Scott Jensen, *Senior Advisor, Alliance for School Choice*
Charles Glenn, *Professor, Boston University School of Education*

Following the event, Mr. Chavous will be signing his new book, *Voices of Determination: Children that Defy the Odds*·

This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

myentertainment

2

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Victoria Beckham likes making her friends play dress-up, Gwyneth Paltrow is pleased with herself, Rob Lowe is feeling a little sore and Albert Brooks is unimpressed with construction.

@victoriabeckham
my friend Gwyneth looks so good in the slouch coat from my summer collection!!

@GwynethPaltrow
Dude. Seriously. I love my life.

@RobLowe
Spring break with the family. Skiing and Advil.

@AlbertBrooks
China builds 30 story hotel in 15 days and my exit on the 405 has been closed for 3 months.

Lowe

Discovery Channel fires Bear Grylls

Bear Grylls has no qualms about drinking his own urine on national television — and this is the thanks he gets? In shocking TV news, it was announced yesterday that the Discovery Channel has fired the popular, hunky outdoorsman after the network was unable to get the "Man Vs. Wild" star to participate in two unannounced projects he was contracted for, sources tell The Hollywood Reporter.

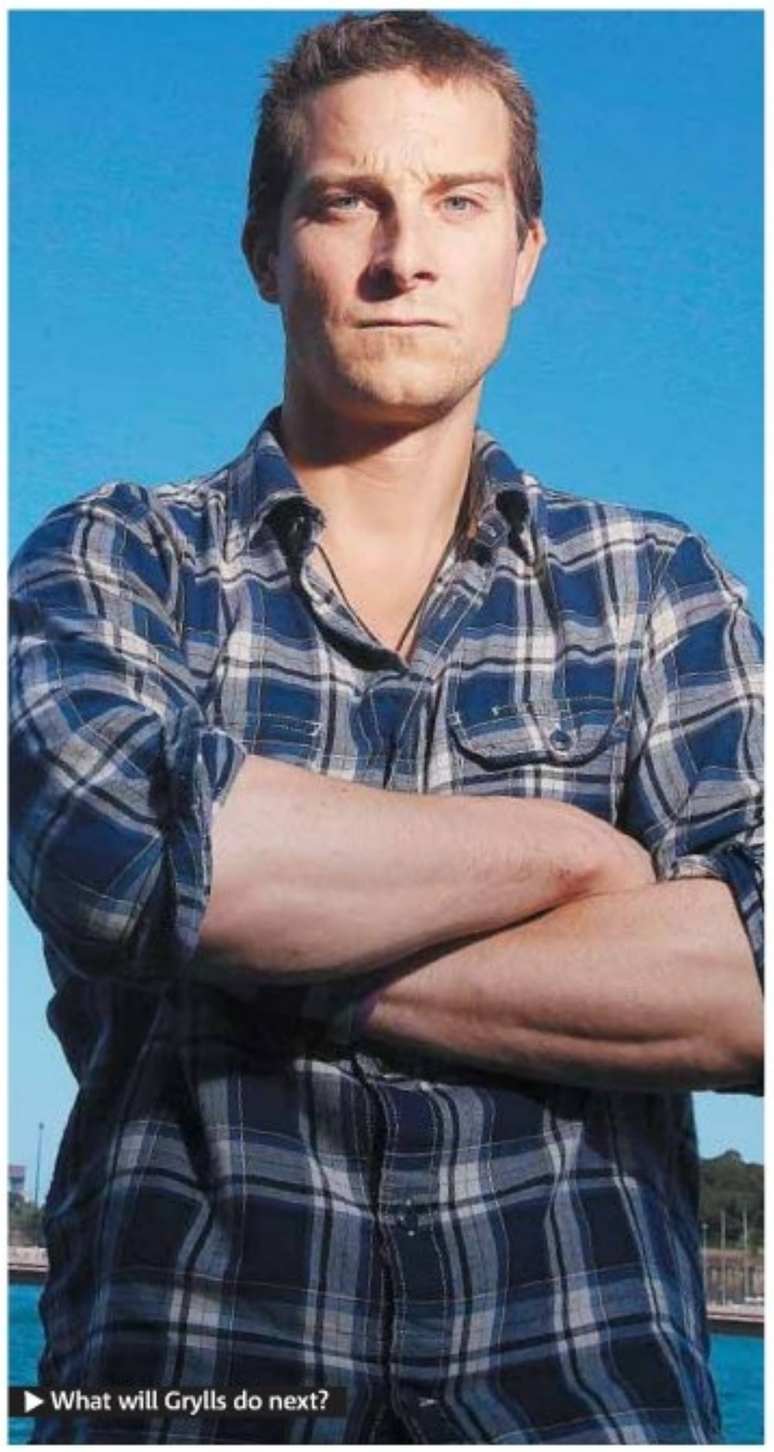
The British star has been with the Discovery Channel since 2006, and in that time has become an international sensation — channeling the show's popularity into endorsement deals with Dockers and Degree deodorant, as well as numerous book deals, an iPhone app, his own clothing line and a video game.

Strange: Of course Grylls should honor his contract, but it's hard to believe that the Discovery Channel would so abruptly fire one of its most successful personalities. Considering this guy has bitten off the head of a snake for breakfast, you kind of have to wonder what was in that contract that he wouldn't do.

Quoted

"Due to a continuing contractual dispute with Bear Grylls, Discovery has terminated all current productions with him."

A DISCOVERY SPOKESPERSON



▶ What will Grylls do next?

▶ Facinelli and Garth in 2010.

Peter Facinelli, Jennie Garth to divorce

One of Hollywood's "longest" unions is no more: **Peter Facinelli** and **Jennie Garth** are divorcing.

After 11 years of marriage, the "Twilight" actor, 38, and "Beverly Hills, 90210" alum, 39, have split, they told Us Weekly in a statement.

"While we have decided to end our marriage, we both share the same deep love and devotion to our children," Facinelli and Garth tell Us. "We remain dedicated to raising our beautiful daughters together. We ask for privacy and respect during this time."

The pair have three daughters: Luca, 14, Lola, 9, and Fiona, 5.

Talking points

Spears disputes 'X Factor' contract

Maybe **Britney Spears** won't be taking a spot at the "X Factor" judge table, after all. The singer has reportedly balked at a $10 million offer from **Simon Cowell**'s singing competition after asking for $20 million, according to Hollywood Life. But negotiations aren't dead, as Spears reportedly would still be interested if the show could offer an "exit clause" allowing her to bow out after one season if she wanted. "Money is not an issue for the show. As of now, they are looking to pay her $12 to $15 million for the first season, with a drastic price hike for a second year based on ratings performance," a source says.

▶ Spears

Why Leo DiCaprio is still single

Why is **Leonardo DiCaprio** still single? Because he hasn't found love yet, he says. "My first love? Boy, I don't even remember," DiCaprio tells the Sun. "I suppose if I'd found my true love I would be married right now, wouldn't I?" And while he still hasn't found what he's looking for, DiCaprio has definitely learned what he doesn't want: "Pretentious women really turn me off," he says. "Vindictive women, too."

Simpson needs to take off the heels

Jessica Simpson looks to be ready to give birth any day now, and she can't wait — since at least it will get her off her feet. "We're waddling at this point," Simpson tells **Jay Leno** during an interview on the "Tonight" show. "I'm wearing 6-inch heels today, and it's a lot of weight to carry on 6 inches." But as much as her feet might be aching, Simpson acknowledges that's nothing compared to what's to come. "Labor is really going to hurt," she says. "I have so much respect for my mom and all the women across the world."

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Getting ready to mess with Texas

The SXSW Music Conference in Austin, Texas, officially started yesterday. But today is the day that the thousands of artists from all over the world really begin to pour in — and subsequently plug in — and rock out. Today is also the day that I touch down in Texas, with an itinerary that includes a dozen in-person interviews with some of the fest's most promising acts and a concert calendar that will likely shift based on the buzz that these acts generate. But for now, here is who I'm eager to hear:

SXSW 2012

PAT HEALY
PAT.HEALY@METRO.US

The artists

TOMMY JACKSON/REDFERNS/GETTY IMAGES
▶ Michael Kiwanuka

STEVE CIELUCK
▶ Little Roy

FRANK BOERSCH/GETTY IMAGES
▶ Youth Lagoon

Michael Kiwanuka
Everything about this Brit singer screams retro. Well, maybe not screams it as much as delicately sings it. He has definitely tapped into the same strain of soul and folk (can I call that "soulk"?) that Marvin Gaye tapped into on "What's Going On." But where Kiwanuka's sound and appearance are throwbacks, his talent is timeless.

Little Roy
A reggae artist from Jamaica who has been recording since the '60s with the island's most legendary producers? That sounds a lot like Jimmy Cliff, who I'm also psyched to see at SXSW, but what sets Little Roy apart is that his latest album, "Battle For Seattle," is all Nirvana covers!

Cloud Nothings
Speaking of Nirvana, remember in the '90s when everybody tried to sound like them, but mostly just focused on their moody side, and totally ignored Kurt Cobain's passion for pop melodies? Cloud Nothings fix that. This Cleveland combo combine the aforementioned moodiness with the aforementioned pop and decorate it with a whole lotta racket and quite possibly the best yelling I've heard in the past 10 years.

Youth Lagoon
Trevor Powers records quiet electronic bedroom music. I'm not dubbing it this because it sounds like he records it in his bedroom (although it does). I'm calling it bedroom music because it's made of the same blissful moods and melodies that the best dreams are made of.

Bleached
Imagine if the Ramones were really related ... and there were only two of them ... and they were girls! You'd basically have sisters Jessica and Jennifer Clavin. These L.A. women write melodic punk with an eye toward '60s pop song structures, as evidenced in their tellingly titled, awesome single, "Searching Through the Past."

Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band
This young upstart from Jersey shows some promise. Wait ... I just Wikied this guy. Apparently he's on his 17th album? What's he doing at a conference for artists who haven't broken out yet? He's giving the conference's keynote speech and playing a gig at a yet-unannounced small club tomorrow. Now that's pretty Boss!

Purity Ring
This Canadian electronic duo has been featured in Metro before, but because of the exposure that SXSW provides, this trip tot he South will be a big one for them and that weird handmade instrument they lug around with them that looks like a twisted row of bar taps. The same holds true for their electronic compatriot Grimes.

J. Roddy Walston & the Business It's not their leader's name that tempts me to use the word "rowdy" to describe these Baltimore boys. It's the singer's raw voice blended with crunchy guitars and soulful keys, delivering songs that sound like they may fall apart.

From Boston to Austin

Here are some of the local acts that will be representing our fair city at SXSW this week:

▶ Aloud, Aunt Martha, Bad Rabbits, Camden, Will Dailey, The Deans List, Fens, Grey Sky Appeal, The Grown Up Noise, Herra Terra, Joy Kills Sorrow, DJ Knife, Lake Street Dive, Moe Pope & Quills, Oldjack, Pretty & Nice, Prism, Quilt, Reks, Viva Viva, The Wandas, Wheez-ie, You Can Be A Wesley

*– Music Editor **Pat Healy** heads down South for the SXSW Music Conference today. Follow him on Twitter **@metrousmusic.***

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theater & arts guide

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From your computer to your living room

CanvasPop now lets you turn small Facebook pictures into high-quality wall art You don't have to log on to admire your favorite snaps anymore

Sizes go from 8-by-10 inches to about 24-by-72 inches, and prices range from $30 to $219.

Digital printing company CanvasPop is at it again. The Web-based print shop has been printing Instagram snapshots for mobile photographers since November. Now, Facebook photos can be printed on canvas.

Since inception, the company has wanted to dive head-first into the world's largest archive of pictures on Earth. Perfecting the process to turn typically low-resolution Facebook pictures into smooth, large-format prints took more than two years, co-founder of CanvasPop Adrian Salamunovic told Mashable.

How it works

When a small, low-resolution picture is enlarged, its pixels, or the little squares making up the picture, get distorted. CanvasPop created PicturePerfect technology, which is a process called "micro-vectorization." The technology turns pixels into little lines that can be enlarged to any size without losing smoothness of the image. This is only a small part of the secret sauce, Salamunovic says.

"We want to tap into that market," he says. "This is where people keep images that are more important to them personally."

When the company started printing digital pictures, customers would come in with low-resolution Facebook pictures they wanted to print after being turned away from other companies. CanvasPop welcomed them with open arms. The company claims to be the first to print enlarged Facebook photos of any size on canvas.

"We took that on as a challenge to develop something that will work with these images, all these images that our competitors can't," he says. "We will be able to take up all the business that our competitors can't — that is really the root of this idea."

CONTRIBUTED BY Mashable The Social Media Guide

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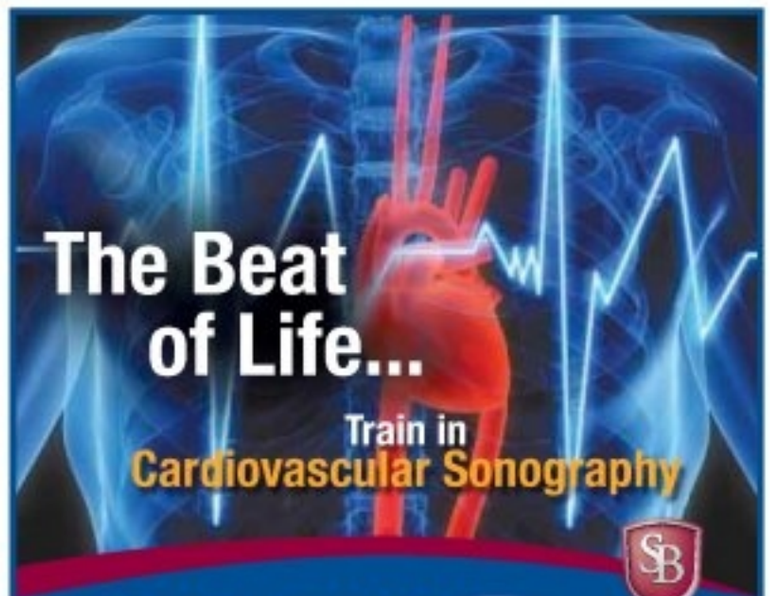

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Let's talk about your bowels

Got your attention? Good — because you need to know how to tell if your plumbing is working When and why to get a colonoscopy

It's not a glamorous subject, but colorectal health is vital for overall well-being and longevity. Measuring 5 to 6 feet, the colon, or large intestine, is a crucial part of the body's finely tuned digestive system.

"Colon health is extremely important, because colon cancer is extremely common," warns Columbia Doctors Medical Group gastroenterologist Dr. Maxwell M. Chait. "Around 150,000 colon cancers are diagnosed in the U.S. annually. Around 50,000 are fatal," he adds.

"It's basically our waste disposal. It's part of the digestive tract, but most of the nutrition has already been absorbed," he explains of the colon. Even so, the colon plays a crucial role in absorbing, or reabsorbing, water and water-soluble elements, such as electrolytes from the digested mush passing through it (we said it wasn't glamorous).

Colon disease manifests itself through inflammatory bowel syndrome, ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, which all have warning signs of abdominal pain. Colon cancer, however, starts with painless precancerous polyps or lesions that often go unnoticed until serious.

"It's a silent disease," says Dr. Chait. "Often there is no pain or symptoms in the early stages. Colonoscopies have been great for catching polyps before they become cancerous. Early detection increases survival rate by 90 percent."

COMSTOCK

▶ Your doctor can alleviate concerns you might have about going in for a colonoscopy.

Get screened

▶ **March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month:** The American Cancer Society recommends men and women begin colonoscopy screening at age 50. Dr. Chait advises people at greater risk from hereditary or ethnic factors — such as people with a family history and African-Americans — begin at age 45 or younger. The best advice, he says, is prevention via a healthy lifestyle. "Colon cancer is 20 percent genetic and 80 percent environment," he says. "Diet is a big factor: Avoid refined sugar, animal fat, smoking and alcohol. Eat a diet that's high in fiber with plenty of vegetables and fruits. Vitamin D and calcium have been shown to [help]."

What's a colonoscopy like?

Bottom line:
It's nothing you can't handle. You don't have to go to the hospital to get it done, and usually you're home the same day. Dr. Chait fills us in on the rest:

Preparation:
▶ You'll be on a liquid diet the day before, which will include cathartics to ready your body for the procedure. Many are available as liquids, tablets and powders to be dissolved in clear juice, soda or water. Ask your doctor which would be the most palatable for you. Take it easy and stay near a bathroom.

Procedure:
▶ You're sedated, which means you're sleepy or completely asleep and comfortable for the procedure.
▶ Your doctor inserts a tube and passes it around the colon, monitoring for abnormalities.
▶ Biopsies are taken or polyps are removed. This adds no pain to the procedure. This is not done during a barium enema (which is an X-ray) or a virtual colonoscopy.

Recovery:
▶ You may have some gas or bloating after the procedure for a few hours.
▶ You should rest that day after the procedure and eat a light but normal diet.
▶ You can return to normal diet and activity the next day. If polyps are removed, your doctor may recommend a low-fiber diet and avoidance of heavy lifting or straining for a few days after the procedure.

LINDA CLARKE
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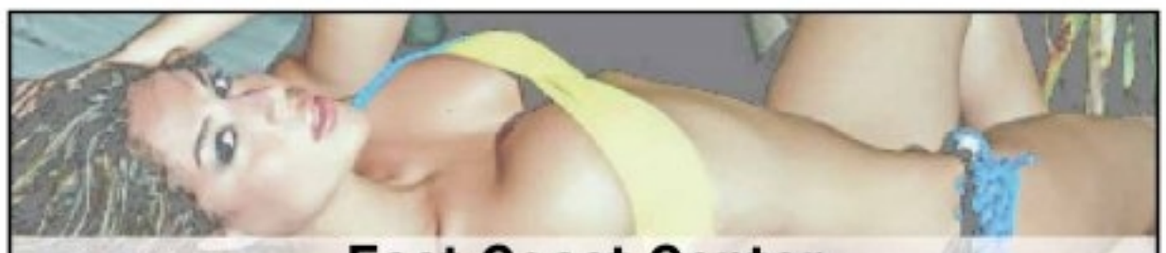

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Health notes

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▶ Health care doesn't have to be a burden.

Uninsured? Read on

Coverageforall.org, which has helped 300,000 uninsured Americans figure out if they are eligible for low-cost private or public health coverage, has revamped its website to make the process even easier. If you're uninsured, you can enter your zip code on the homepage and answer five quick questions to learn about affordable health care in your area.

Treat yo'self

Today, stop by exhale mind body spa for a complimentary detox yoga class as part of the sanctuary's Nutrition Intuition Day. Stick around after for nutrition talks and enjoy snacks from some of the city's surrounding restaurants. Visit **www.exhalespa.com** for class times and more information.

METRO/ME

Recipe

How's this for a green drink?

Yeah, yeah, we know you're likely gonna down some green beers this Saturday. But why not at least start the day off on the right foot? Grab your blender and make a toast to the Irish. Slainte!

Luck of the Parsley

- **1** handful parsley
- **2** apples
- **1** handful spinach
- **1** cucumber
- **1** lemon
- **1-inch** piece ginger

—Recipe courtesy of Omega Juicers

THE FENWAY INSTITUTE

1

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Fenway Health Ansin Building
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FACT: 63% of all HIV/AIDS cases in the US are in gay and bisexual men and infection rates are rising among men who have sex with men.

Fenway Health is seeking HIV-negative men who have sex with men to participate in a vaccine trial to determine the safety and effectiveness of an investigational HIV vaccine.

We are seeking volunteers: HIV-negative men, ages 18–50, who have been a top or bottom in the past 6 months. Volunteers receive compensation for their time and travel expenses, as well as confidential HIV counseling and testing.

You cannot get HIV from this investigational HIV vaccine.

2

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3

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Letters

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Show some respect for others' beliefs

RE: "FAITH: BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR MAKER": Kirk Cameron's unsolicited opinions on right and wrong remind us all once again that actors make lousy politicians, and if you think I mean Reagan, you're right. **M. E. THOMPSON VIA E-MAIL**

Many who condemn Kirk Cameron, trash the Bible and insult/mock God for the condemnation of the act of homosexuality are the same ones who in the name of political correctness promote religious tolerance and respect for other beliefs — as long as its not Bible-based! Why not show the same respect for Christianity as you do Islam, homosexuality, atheism and all other beliefs and lifestyles? **DOMINGO RIVERA, VIA E-MAIL**

Corporations should pay for their sins

Why do I have to pay for the "budget gap"? My salary has been frozen for more than two years, while expenses for the public transportation I use, food and utilities and postal service were increased from 16 to 50 percent. When people work they pay income taxes. When people work they make purchases, paying sales tax. When people work, companies manufacturing in the U.S. pay taxes. When people work, they make goods — competing with those from China. Long ago, our grandfathers fought for the benefits employees have now: the 40-hour business week, two-day weekends, health insurance and retirements. Now we watch as our governments tirelessly reduce all those benefits. Why are corporations laying people off for cheap labor overseas, allowing them to pay little in taxes, not paying for that? Maybe because those fat cats are the biggest money donors for those lawmakers, who are now fighting to cut all of our incomes? **NIKOLAS MOSTAPOULOS, VIA E-MAIL**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Afghanistan is our biggest muddy

Some of you know the song "The Big Muddy," about a troop following their commander across a river, neck-deep in mud. A low-ranking officer questions the wisdom of continuing, and he is ridiculed. The commander continues; once he's in over his head, the commander drowns. The war in Afghanistan is one of our big muddies. **VIRGINIA PRATT, BOSTON**

Horoscope

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** A friend who is in need of a strong shoulder to cry on is likely to come to you with some frustrating burdens.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Most of the effort you expend on behalf of others will go unrewarded or unappreciated, even though you probably won't mind.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Direct your creativity toward gratifying a personal objective that you've been fearful to try.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Something that has caused you nothing but frustration recently can be taken care of if you make it your prime target.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Although you'll be willing to work hard, the success of a project is likely to be due in part to a few others who pitch in and help.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Although your goals might be a bit difficult to achieve, the rewards they offer could be so enticing that they'll impel you to at least try.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Instead of finally being able to coast as you thought, it might become necessary for you to step up the pace.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** If you keep searching, you will to find an answer to a situation that appears to have no valid solution.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** If your hopes and expectations appear to be a bit high to others, don't let their negative thinking cause you to believe otherwise.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** If you have to work hard for what you hope to get, remember: It will be well worth it.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** If you truly believe in your ideas, you shouldn't have any problem convincing others of their worth.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Before involving yourself in a huge endeavor with others, thoroughly investigate it. Detailed scrutiny will serve you well. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

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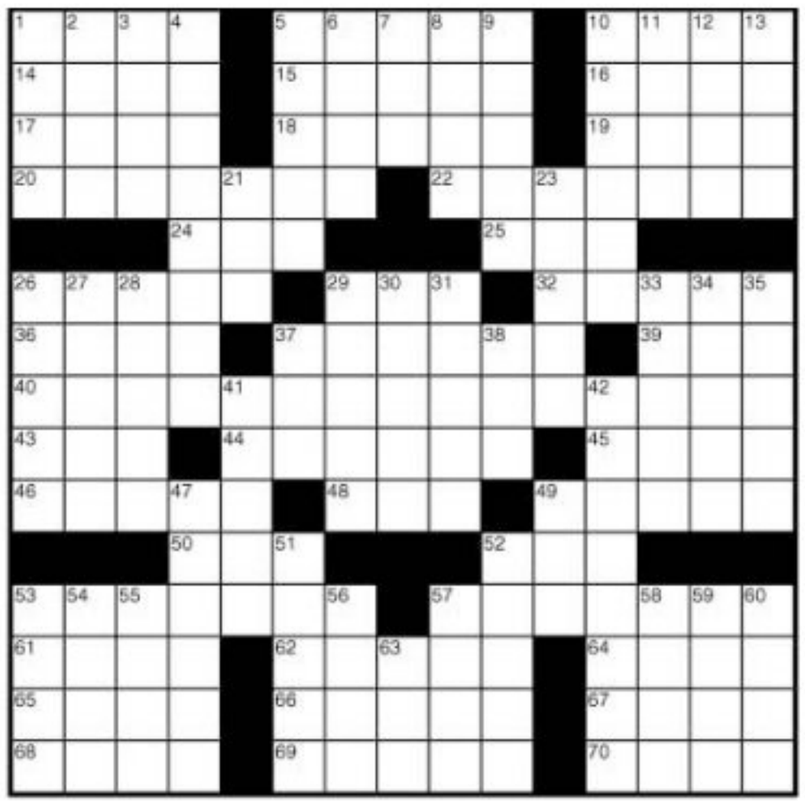
Across
1 __ -carotene
5 Sketches
10 Cabbage unit
14 Mosque official
15 Totally unfamiliar
16 "City of New Orleans" singer
17 Impolite sound
18 Slugger __ Guerrero
19 Pinewood feature
20 Land bridge
22 Seeing red
24 Alley from Moo
25 Turkey or cat
26 Paget or Winger
29 Boater, maybe
32 Humane org.
36 Notion
37 Mannerisms
39 Brown of renown
40 Miffed one's response (2 wds.)
43 201, to Claudius
44 Upward movement
45 Pave the way
46 Arises from
48 FDR veep
49 Peace and quiet
50 Shade tree
52 Fleetwood __
53 Made waves
57 Scavenged
61 Get ready
62 Uncultivated one
64 Driftwood bringer
65 Fabricate
66 Veld grazer
67 Obligation
68 Nut, actually
69 Venus or Mars
70 Flint or marble

Down
1 Actress __ Andersson
2 Rhea cousins
3 Like a sourball
4 Ancient jars
5 Accept eagerly (2 wds.)
6 Yves' islands
7 Halfway
8 Foam-ball brand
9 Rhino nose
10 Muslim physicians
11 Cubic Rubik
12 Baseball family
13 Polka __
21 Kiwi's extinct cousin
23 Cook in embers
26 Brake parts
27 Law
28 Contradict
29 Rabbit's home
30 Buenos __
31 Helen __ of radio soaps
33 Supplicate
34 Use a thurible
35 Purplish flower
37 Liquid meas.
38 Krazy feline
41 Kind of congestion
42 Famous mapmaker
47 Cleaned the floor
49 Thole filler
51 __ up (on edge)
52 Brooding
53 LP speeds
54 Latin hymn word
55 Flat-nosed pooch
56 Hill's opposite
57 Typeface
58 __ Vannelli
59 Cabinet dept.
60 Dorm room item
63 "Bali __"



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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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5	9					6		2
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7		4					8	9
				4	3			5
	1		8			4		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.
You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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3

In the news

No way, Jose

It's been hard to get a true gauge as to how new Red Sox manager Bobby Valentine will juggle the lineup. As for who will start at shortstop? That likely won't be revealed until April by Valentine.

But Sox president Larry Lucchino may have shed some light on WEEI's Dennis & Callahan Show yesterday.

Lucchino said there's a "remote chance" that 21-year-old defensive guru Jose Iglesias gets the nod on Opening Day.

"I like him a lot," Lucchino said. "It's fun to watch him play, it's fun to see the growth and development both physically and developmentally from the last year or two and it'll be fun to watch him for the next couple of years."

2012 NCAA: BREAKING DOWN THE BRACKET

Midwest Region

▶ Barnes

Best player you probably know:

Harrison Barnes, UNC. The 6-foot-8 swingman is one of three projected lottery picks for the No. 1 Tar Heels. Barnes is the most NBA ready after leading UNC in points (17.4) and 3-point percentage (.377).

Best player you don't know:

Matthew Dellavedova, Saint Mary's. He's the heart, soul and mind for the upstart Gaels. The Aussie import led the Gaels in points (15.6), assists (6) and carries a 3.61 GPA. the name is legit. Plus, his bio tells us that his father and sister are UNC grads and his grandparents attended Duke. Awkward.

Second round matchup we want:

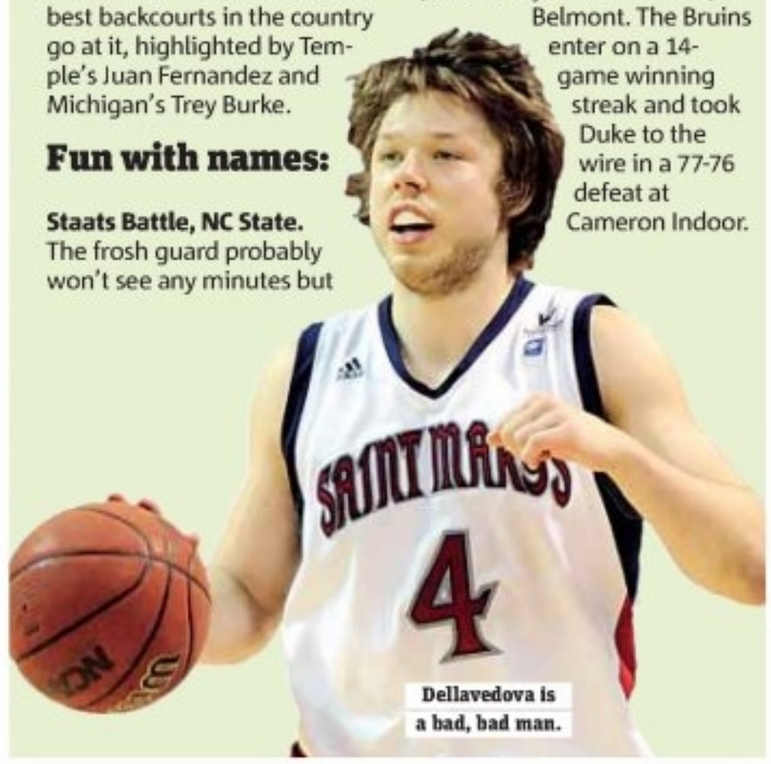
Temple vs. Michigan. The pace could be frenzied — so don't blink — when two of the best backcourts in the country go at it, highlighted by Temple's Juan Fernandez and Michigan's Trey Burke.

On upset alert:

Georgetown. The committee did them no favors with No. 14 (and trendy bracket-buster) Belmont. The Bruins enter on a 14-game winning streak and took Duke to the wire in a 77-76 defeat at Cameron Indoor.

Fun with names:

Staats Battle, NC State. The frosh guard probably won't see any minutes but



Dellavedova is a bad, bad man.

▶ Davis could very well be the NBA's No. 1 lottery pick.

South Region

Best player you probably know:

Anthony Davis, Kentucky. Despite his unibrow, Davis is the leading candidate for Player of the Year. He's a beast defensively and shows a nice face-up game for a 7-footer. If you're an NBA fan, he'll be this year's top pick.

Best player you don't know:

Nate Wolters, South Dakota St. He's averaging 21 points, six assists and five rebounds per game. He's gone for 30-plus six times this year, including 34 at Pac-12 regular season champs Washington. If you're looking for this year's Jimmer Fredette, Wolters is your man.

Second round matchup we want:

Kentucky vs. UConn. UConn has to get by a game ISU squad, but Calipari and Calhoun in the second round is almost too much to handle. There are at least four NBA lottery picks in this game (Davis, Kidd-Gilchrist, Drummond, Lamb).

Fun with names:

Shabazz Napier, UConn. His name is just like his game — stylish, but a little clumsy. He'll play a big role if UConn is going to advance.

On upset alert:

Wichita St. VCU isn't your average No. 12 seed. Shaka Smart's team brings tournament experience and the confidence to beat a fellow mid-major in the first round.

West Region

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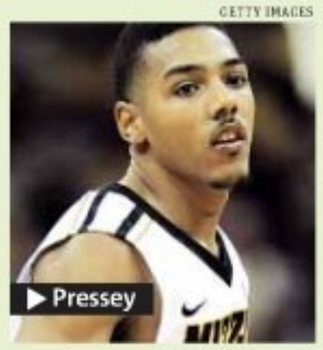
▶ Pressey

Best player you probably know:

Phil Pressey, Missouri. The son of NBA great Paul Pressey usually plays Robin to Kim English's Batman, but his 23-point outburst versus a Texas in the Big 12 tournament may have been his coming-out party.

Best player you don't know:

Casper Ware, Long Beach St. He might be the best mid-major guard in the entire country. Ware, who resembles the Energizer Bunny, went 8-of-16 from beyond the arc in the Big West championship game.

Second round matchup we want:

Murray State vs. Marquette. The Golden Eagles are dangerous with Big East Player of the Year Jae Crowder, but the Racers (30-1) can shoot the lights out at 40.6 percent from 3-point land. Both these teams have Elite 8 potential.

Fun with names:

Trinity Fields, Iona. Senior guard can't get any burn — played just 72 minutes all season — but this name has superstar written all over it. Leading man, perhaps?

On upset alert:

New Mexico. The Lobos are a defensive-minded bunch, something that doesn't always turn out well in the NCAAs. They'll face a streaking Long Beach team, led by four senior starters that put a scare into both Kansas and UNC.

East Region

Best player you probably know:

Jared Sullinger, Ohio State. Sullinger may be a little undersized to be a star in the NBA, but enjoy his time in college. He's a prototypical college post player. He carves out space with the best of them. He averaged 17.6 points and 9.3 rebounds per game this season.

Best player you don't know:

Michael Snaer, Florida St. You may know him from his game-winning 3-pointer in Cameron Indoor versus Duke. But he's more than just a big-time shooter. His defense on Austin Rivers in the ACC tourney won them the game over Duke.

Second round matchup we want:

Syracuse vs. Kansas St. Would you believe that the Orange haven't advanced past the Sweet 16 since 2003 — the year they won it all. Kansas St. is a competent team, that beat Missouri twice and won at Baylor.

Fun with names:

Charlan Kloof, St. Bonaventure. Mr. Kloof is a guard for the Bonnies and native of Suriname. *Can you name what continent Suriname is on?* Fun fact: Kloof went by the alias Charli Klein in prep school.

On upset alert:

Vanderbilt. The Ivy Leaguers at Harvard are no cupcake this year. We know they are smarter than Vandy (though maybe not by much), but they've beaten ACC champion Florida St. in Tallahassee already this year.

Moving and shaking on Day 1 of NFL free agency

Dolphins WR Marshall out of AFC East with trade to Bears Patriots relatively quiet DT Bryant re-ups in Seattle Redskins target WRs

The first NFL domino to fall was one of the biggest.

The Dolphins traded talented wide receiver Brandon Marshall to Chicago, reuniting the receiver with quarterback Jay Cutler.

Miami reportedly received two third-round picks from Chicago.

Many immediately said the move would put Miami out of the Peyton Manning sweepstakes although it could, in fact, be a precursor to the Dolphins going hard after both Manning and free agent wide receiver Reggie Wayne.

Tennessee is also still courting the former league MVP as they are attempting to sign Manning's friend, Pro Bowl guard Steve Hutchinson.

In other free agent moves, the Redskins are attempting to upgrade their receiving corps in a major way as they are reportedly close to signing Pierre Garcon, Josh Morgan and Eddie Royal.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers, meanwhile, are reportedly very close to signing former San Diego receiver Vincent Jackson.

Defensive end Mario Williams, the non-Manning star of this free agent class, plans on visiting the Buffalo Bills.

Patriots moves

The Patriots extended an exclusive-rights tender to defensive lineman Kyle Love. Love started 13 games for New England in 2011 and posted 33 tackles.

Patriots backup quarterback Brian Hoyer received a second-round tender from the team worth $1.92 million. Another team could sign Hoyer to an offer sheet, which the Patriots would have to match if they wish to hold on to the signal caller out of Michigan State.

Defensive tackle Red Bryant, who was rumored to New England early and often on Tuesday, re-signed with Seattle for five years, $35 million, according to ESPN.

MATT BURKE
matthew.burke@metro.us

Remember us?

Looking at a few of the Pats' in-house free agent candidates:

- **Mark Anderson** What's the asking price for the DE who had 10 sacks last year?
- **Deion Branch** Brady's binky wants to come back.
- **BenJarvus Green-Ellis** There seems to be a market developing for the sure-handed running back.
- **Notables:** LB Gary Guyton, C Dan Koppen, S J. Ihedigbo, CB Antwaun Molden

GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Patriots will no longer have to deal with wide receiver Brandon Marshall in the AFC East.

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JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Syracuse will be missing their big man in the middle.

Melo out of tournament

Hopefully you haven't submitted your final bracket yet.

Syracuse announced yesterday that center Fab Melo will be ineligible for the entire NCAA tournament.

The school announced nothing as the reason other than an "eligibility issue," but ESPN is reporting it is an academic issue connected to his first suspension in January.

"Given University policy and federal student privacy laws, no further details can be provided at this time," Syracuse's official athletic site said.

Melo did not even travel with the team to Pittsburgh for their opening game against No. 16 seed UNC-Ashville (Thursday, 3:10 p.m.).

2.9

Fab Melo is averaging 2.9 blocks per game this season. That is tied for 10th in the nation. James Southerland is second on the team with just 1.1 blocks per game.

The sophomore is averaging 7.8 points, 5.8 rebounds and 2.9 blocks per game. He may be missed more defensively, where he anchors the Orange's vaunted 2-3 zone.

Melo was held out of three games earlier this season while the school looked into an academic issue. Their only regular season loss came during that stretch. METRO/MO

Celts' crunch time

- Road efforts against Clippers, Lakers provided hope for aging group
- Has Danny Ainge already made up his mind?
- The last days of the Big 4

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Trade rumors involving Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett have quieted ... but anything's possible.

This is a big week in the NBA, and it's especially big for the Celtics.

We all know how Danny Ainge shocked the NBA world (and his own team) by dealing away Kendrick Perkins last season, essentially sealing the Celtics' fate as noncontenders once it was clear Jeff Green and Nenad Krstic weren't the answers.

That trade defined the Celtics' 2010-11 season. And just like last season, a trade — or lack thereof — will again define this one. Tack on a brutal eight-game road trip starting out west, and this is the biggest week of the Celtics' season to date.

First, look at the Celtics' current team. There is one glaring need — a big man. They need size more than Rick Santorum needs the South. Jermaine O'Neal is useless and is considering season-ending wrist surgery. Chris Wilcox is out indefinitely while he gets tests done on his heart — yes, another Celtics player with heart trouble.

A lot of what the Celtics do at the deadline depends on those two players' immediate future with the team.

The C's will do everything they can to bring on a big body at the trade deadline, but they aren't willing to trade any starters for 75 cents on the dollar. All reports indicate that Ainge is asking for a lot in return if opposing teams want any of the Big Four, and none of those teams are biting.

For that reason, you might just see a small trade to bring on a low- to midlevel talented center with the C's not giving up much in return. If that doesn't happen, look for the C's to scour the D-League or recently released veterans for help.

Ainge isn't going to "blow up the team" at this stage when they're already designed to self-destruct at the end of the season. Almost every player on the C's roster (not Rajon Rondo, Paul Pierce, JaJuan Johnson, or E'Twaun Moore) is slated to come off the books.

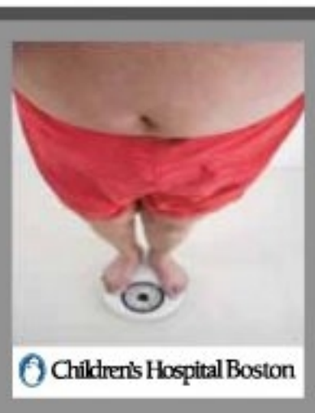
The C's have two concerns right now: Getting bigger down low, and surviving this brutal road trip. A minor trade for a somewhat proven big man, and a 4-4 record on this road trip would equal "crisis averted."

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

Big swaps

A look at a few names firmly on the trading block:

1. **Monta Ellis, G, Golden State:** It has become an annual tradition, but the odds of Ellis being dealt seem greater than ever.
2. **Dwight Howard, C, Orlando:** Sources told the Sporting News that the Magic are reconsidering an Andrew Bynum swap.
3. **Pau Gasol, F, LA Lakers:** ESPN reported yesterday that the Chicago Bulls are "exploring avenues" in which to grab the Lakers' graceful big man.



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Inside a 'Million Dollar Listing'

Ryan Serhant, star of Bravo's 'Million Dollar Listing New York,' shows us around his apartment in NYC's Financial District ◗ This isn't a standard bachelor pad

▶ "The kitchens were designed to be very New York kitchens, so they're kind of out of the way, which is perfect for me because I never use it. It disappears into the wall — it's almost like an art piece where everything hides," Serhant says. Under the sink are a washer, dryer and dishwasher.

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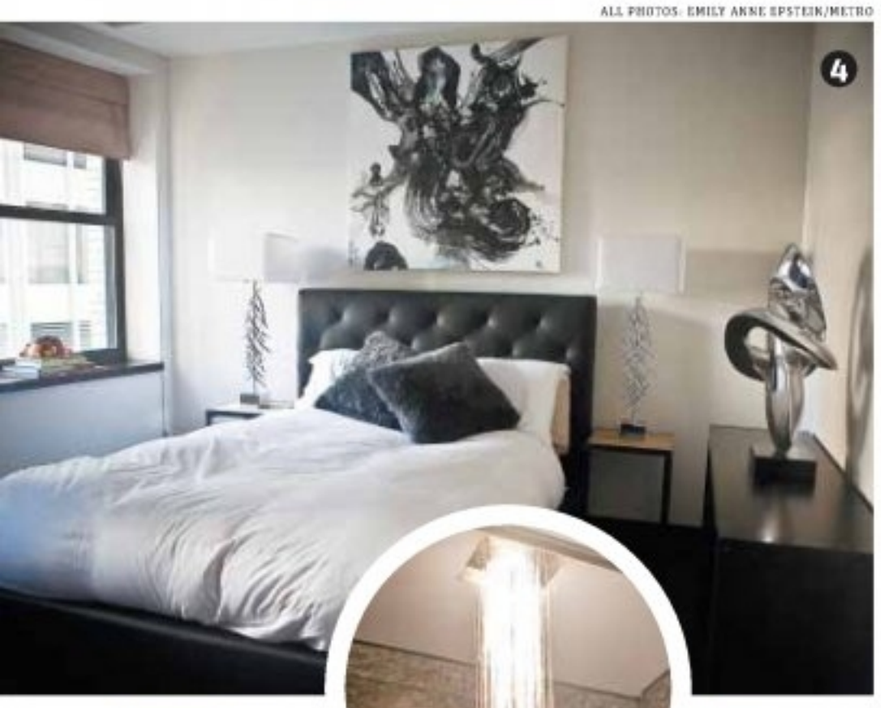

It should come as no surprise that Ryan Serhant, a real estate broker to the stars and cast member of Bravo's "Million Dollar Listing New York" (Wednesdays at 10 p.m. on Bravo) has a pad that would make anyone — New Yorker or not — envious. We stopped by his Pine Street, N.Y., apartment to get a good look for ourselves. When he's not hanging out in his two-bedroom pad, he can take advantage of the building's many amenities: a sauna, billiards room, Turkish hamam and roof deck, to name a few — "It's one of the most full-service buildings in the city," he tells us.

1 "The first thing I wanted when people walked in was something there that would just kind of grab people," Serhant says of his entryway shark painting by Tom Booth. "I like art and I have a lot of pieces, so I wanted a lot of hallway space. It takes you like five seconds to actually get to the apartment because you're just walking through the hallway."

2 A portrait of Serhant hangs in the master bathroom. "Alex Garant painted that of me when I was doing 'As the World Turns' and I thought it would be really cool so I framed it. And now everyone comes in here like, 'You're a d—bag, you have pictures of yourself?'"

3 "The bathrooms" — which feature all imported stone — "are very pretty," he says. "You have the rain shower above which is killer to take a shower in, [but] it makes it a little bit harder when you're taking a shower with two people."

4 "I wanted a powerful bedroom, something comfortable. I like everything very, very clean, to look like it was there for a reason — even books that are on windowsills. I work in real estate, so I show this apartment to a lot of people, and a lot of people who are spending a lot of money on an apartment want to work with a real estate broker who cares about where he lives."

5 "Because I have people over all the time and I entertain, I didn't put the TV in here," Serhant says of the main space. "I put it in the second bedroom" — used as a den — "because that's like the hangout place."

6 "It's very, very simple," Serhant says of his design aesthetic. "I hate walking into apartments with a lot of stuff."

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REAL ESTATE ON THE GO!

LOVE & KISSES UNTIL YOUR HOUSE IS GONE

By Attorney George Warshaw

It's like a scene from "The Bachelor."

It's all love and kisses, "til death do us part," and syrup on the pancakes – until reality sinks in. It's back to the daily job and routine daily life? Does anyone get or stay married?

Is it any different when an older parent deeds the family home to one's kids for love and affection? "We'll use it to take care of you – and the government won't get it!"

But the deed's in someone else's name! What if son or daughter gets divorced, sick or sued? Or if son or daughter needs personal money and borrows against the house – temporarily, of course?

One way of protecting a home is through a trust. A trust is a set of rules constructed by a lawyer to accomplish a goal or protect an asset, oftentimes both.

The trustees own the house on behalf of the trust and not personally – and a parent can name a trusted advisor as co-trustee who can have veto power on the sale or mortgaging of the home.

The house is thus protected from unnecessary sale or mortgage and the personal creditors of the son or daughter.

Caution: Check with a Medicaid attorney ***before*** transferring property out of an older parent's name.

George Warshaw is a real estate and estate planning attorney in Massachusetts. He represents buyers and sellers of homes and condos in Massachusetts, and prepares wills, trusts for individuals and families. George welcomes new clients and questions at metro@warshawlaw.com.

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